

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2804/03  
by Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Urbs Asia Contract No. Ala/95-21-b7-3010/39

The town of Schelklingen is the Commission's partner in the above development aid programme with the town of Cagayan de Oro (the Philippines). The auditor which the municipal authorities had originally intended to employ to check the final accounts of the project is no longer available and, since this was the Schelklingen supervisory authority, its services would have been free of charge.

The Schelklingen municipal authorities are therefore obliged to find and commission a new project auditor. Initial estimates put the cost of this at approximately 15 000 euros per inspection, so that the three inspections required by contract would amount to 45 000 euros. Since no provision was made for this expenditure and it cannot be paid for out of the municipal budget, savings will have to be made in the projects' budget.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Can it suggest an economical, unbureaucratic way for the municipal authorities of the town of Schelklingen to carry out the three final project audits, without restricting the projects financially?
2. Can it retrospectively authorise the cost of final project audit?
3. Will it help solve the problem by permitting the necessary costs of the final project audits to be paid for out of the project budget?